

*Sup. Long*

7 January 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Amendments - District of Columbia Policemen and  
Firemen's Retirement and Disability Act  
P. L. 91-509, October 26, 1970

1. The Director expressed interest to a comment made during his recent Caribbean trip that there have been very liberal changes made to the Secret Service retirement act. Actually, the changes concern the D. C. Police and Firemen retirement and disability act. Included are only those Secret Service personnel who, for ten years of more, have been directly engaged in protecting the President. The act also covers the Park Police, and the White House Police.

2. The changes are as follows and probably make the act one of the most liberal in government.

- A. The term "widower" was substituted for "dependent widower." This removed prior requirements of dependence and recognizes the role of policewomen.
- B. Any surviving child may be included for retirement benefits if he lives with the annuitant regardless of degree of support given. Before, more than one-half support was necessary.
- C. The deduction for member's contribution was increased from 6 1/2% to 7%.
- D. The annuity computation rate, in the event of disability was increased from 2 to 2 1/2%.
- E. Optional Retirement
  - (1) There is now no age requirement; before it was 50.

(2) Minimum service is 20 years, computed now at 2 1/2% instead of 2%. (Years in excess of 20 remain unchanged at computation of 3%.)

(3) Maximum annuity was increased from 70% to 80%.

F. Reduced from 55 to 50, the age at which an annuity would cease should an annuitant recover from his disability.

G. Survivor Annuity Benefits

(1) A lump sum payment of \$50,000.00 for death resulting from a personal injury in the performance of duty. This is in addition to all other annuities and is to be given equally, only to those survivors to whom more than one-half of support was given by the deceased.

(2) Increased minimum annuity for a surviving spouse from \$1,800.00 p. a. to \$4,386.00 p. a. Formula changed from 30% of basic salary to 40% of the salary of a policeman Step 6, subclass (a), Class I (\$10,965.00).

(3) Annuity for a surviving only child with a surviving parent increased from \$600.00 p. a. to \$720.00 p. a. and without a parent from \$996.00 to \$1,200.00 p. a.

(4) Survivors on the rolls received increases of minimum annuities from \$140.00 to \$262.00 per month to reflect the 5.6% cost of living increase granted to Civil Service in August 1970.

(5) By prior law, adult survivors who remarried under age 60 lost their annuity. Now the annuity is restored if the remarriage is terminated. Those over 60 may remarry and retain annuity.

- (6) A student may receive child benefits up to age 22 instead of 21.
- (7) By prior law, a retiree who took a reduced annuity with a full annuity to a beneficiary should he die, could not receive the full annuity if the beneficiary predeceased him. Now he can.
- (8) Automatic adjustments in survivor annuities are now given based on cost-of-living increases, the same as Civil Service system.

STATINTL

SIGNED

  
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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